



## Risk Factors for Youth Problem Gambling

Risk factors are aspects that increase the risk of a youth engaging in problem behaviors, including problem gambling. There are many unknown reasons why youth develop problem gambling behaviors, but the following are some commonalities seen among those youth who do become problem gamblers (Derevensky & Gupta, 2000; Gupta & Derevensky, 1997, 1998a, 1998b):

- History of gambling in family
- Family history of alcoholism
- Exposure to gambling at young age
- Family that overemphasizes money, competition
- Early “big win”
- Low self-esteem
- ADHD/hyperactivity
- Other addiction/behavior issues

***Potential Risk Factors for  
Problem Gambling***

*Source: Dickson, Derevensky & Gupta (2002)*

**Community:**

- Availability
- Community Laws & Norms

**Family**

- Family History
- Family Conflict (competition)
- Parental Attitudes/Involvement

**School:**

- Anti-Social Behavior

**Individual /Peer:**

- Peer Involvement
- Favorable Attitudes
- Early Initiation

**LEARN MORE ABOUT RISK FACTORS**

General information about risk & protective factors for youth

[http://www.azprevention.org/Prevention\\_In\\_Practice/What\\_Works/What\\_Works\\_Risk.htm](http://www.azprevention.org/Prevention_In_Practice/What_Works/What_Works_Risk.htm)

**For free confidential information and referral  
regarding a gambling problem, call**

**1.800.NEXT.STEP (1.800.639.8783) or**

**[www.problemgambling.az.gov](http://www.problemgambling.az.gov)**